PARTNERSHIP NEWS

TECHNOLOGY • LEADERSHIP • SERVICE • TEALE DATA CENTER

California Student Aid Commission – GRANTS TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

During the past four decades, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) has provided financial aid to help more than two generations of students with the costs of higher education. Nearly one in 11 Californians has directly benefited from the student loan and grant programs. Today, CSAC and its nonprofit corporation, EdFund, administer almost $2 billion in loans and grants to more than 400,000 California students each year while managing a $16 billion portfolio in outstanding loans.

CSAC's Financial Aid Processing System (FAPS) has processed and managed grants since 1990 and loans since 1993. In 1995, however, with the system's high operating and maintenance costs, as well as the need to replace its older technology, the Commission began to research possible system alternatives to upgrade the Grant Delivery System. The separation of the loan program from the grant and other programs in 1997, provided CSAC the impetus for the grant technology upgrade.

"WITH THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT, KNOWLEDGE AND COMMITMENT PROVIDED BY TEALE DATA CENTER, THE COMMISSION WAS ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY RELEASE THIS INITIAL PHASE OF THE NEW SYSTEM…"

"Technically speaking, we're moving from a mainframe environment to a client/server platform in this phase of the upgrade," explained Ann Barsotti, CSAC's Chief of Information Technology. "This will give us more flexibility in design and will make the Grant Delivery System easier to use for both staff and our school customers."

The conversion is a cost-effective technical solution that will result in substantial savings in production and maintenance costs, as well as greater efficiency. With the upgrade, the Commission will save approximately $1 million in operating expenses per year.

Update… Teale New Facility

Governor Gray Davis' Executive Order D-3-99 has made Year 2000 (Y2K) readiness California's top technology priority. As part of the effort to focus state resources on Y2K activities, the relocation of Teale Data Center to its new facility at 3101 Gold Camp Drive in Rancho Cordova has been delayed for one year. This site is currently being used as the State of California's Y2K Event Management Center (EMC) and is occupied by the state and vendor staff who are dedicated to the Y2K effort.

The EMC is the focal point for the State's Y2K remediation efforts, as well as the tracking of the Y2K project status of departments and their mission-critical systems. Teale's future facility is an ideal location for the EMC and will be a significant asset in the State of California's Y2K preparedness.

Preparing for the Century Date Change

Although Teale Data Center is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the century change presents a unique challenge that will require the Data Center to be able to respond to any situation that may occur in a timely manner. By establishing a dialogue with its customers, Teale will be able to plan for any critical activities with the appropriate resources. To assist in this effort, the Data Center is requesting input from its customers regarding specific plans that involve the use of Teale services during the weeks and days surrounding the millennium change.

Teale's Business Continuity Plan includes the ongoing availability of the mainframe systems, UNIX servers and web services through the weekend beginning December 31, 1999. As part of this effort, the Data Center will be verifying the connectivity and operation of the network; processing services on the various systems; and have appropriate staff available for troubleshooting and problem resolution.

If your agency's contingency plan or Business Continuity Plan involves specific references to Teale, please contact Rik Larson, Teale's Y2K Project Manager, at (916) 263-1828 (CALNET 435-1828) or via e-mail at Rik.Larson@teale.ca.gov.

Reminder…

Time machine testing is available at Teale for the MVS and VM platforms. This testing is also available to customers running applications on the UNIX platforms located at Teale. For more information, please contact Rik Larson, Teale's Y2K Project Manager, at (916) 263-1828 (CALNET 435-1828) or via e-mail at Rik.Larson@teale.ca.gov.

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Grants Technology Upgrade

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The new system officially went into production in January 1999 and uses a client/server and web technology architecture, including an Oracle database hosted by the Teale Data Center. "With the technical support, knowledge and commitment provided by Teale Data Center, the Commission was able to successfully release this initial phase of the new system," said Wally Boeck, CSAC's Executive Director.

Once placed into production, the new system's online query capability immediately assisted the Commission in better serving the students and schools by providing timely status of grade point average (GPA) information. The entire student GPA load process is now completed in approximately 30 minutes versus the previous manual load process which took weeks to complete.

This initial production release is the first in a multi-phased implementation schedule that is planned to continue through early Summer of this year. In addition, the Commission is currently investigating more extensive use of the Internet, which is consistent with their long-term strategic plan to increase customer access, flexibility and speed of service. "The upgrade is essential to positioning CSAC for the future so that we have the technological flexibility to quickly respond to customers' needs," said Barsotti.

HOW TO REACH US

Customer Relations
(916) 263-1464   CALNET 435-1464

Help Desk
(916) 263-1711   CALNET 435-1711

Internet
http://www.teale.ca.gov

TECHNICAL TIP

TSO STATUS Command

The TSO STATUS command provides users with the status of jobs submitted on the MVS systems. With the installation of OS/390, Version 2, Release 5, the output from this command reverts to its default format which does not include the Teale modifications to which customers have become accustomed. For those who depend upon the format of the modified version, Teale developed a new TSO command called TDCST. This command uses (E)JES and requires no system modifications. With few exceptions, TDCST works identically to the "old" STATUS command.

Command Syntax

tdcst [{ (jobname[,jobname,…]) | g=(racfgrp[,racfgrp,…]) | s=(userid[,userid…]) }]

Where:

jobname Specifies one or more job names whose status is to be displayed.*

racfgrp Specifies one or more RACF group names or userids for jobs whose status is to be displayed.*

userid Specifies one or more userids for jobs whose status is to be displayed. This userid represents the submitter of the job (generally either your userid or a surrogate identified by the USER= parameter on the JOB statement).*

If only one job name, RACF group name or userid is specified, the parentheses are not required.

Additional information regarding TDCST is provided in the "TSO Status Command" Technical Bulletin, number 98-03. You can view or print current Bulletins by entering TECHBULL at TSO READY.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer 1999

Gartner Group Briefing

META Group Briefing